Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 00626 202211Z ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 SP-02 USIA-06 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /106 W

R 202144Z JAN 77 FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6306 INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA AMEMBASSY OTTAWA AMEMBASSY TEHRAN USMISSION OECD PARIS

CONFIDENTIAL CARACAS 0626

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, IBRD, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN MINISTER CRITICAL OF MCNAMARA INITIATIVE

1. ON JANUARY 18, DR. MANUEL PEREZ GUERRERO, MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, ISSUED A PUBLIC STATEMENT CRITICAL OF WORLD BANK PRESIDENT MCNAMARA'S PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF A GROUP OF NON-GOVERNMENT PERSONALITIES TO ANALYZE ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED NATIONS. A COPY OF THE FULL TEXT, TOGETHER WITH AN OFFICIAL TRANSLATION INTO ENGLISH, WAS DELIVERED TO THE EMBASSY JANUARY 19. THE TEXT OF THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION IS CONTAINED IN PARAS 3 AND 4 BELOW.

BEGIN COMMENT: CANADIAN EMBASSY TELLS US THAT MCNAMARA AND PEREZ-GUERERRO HAVE EXCHANGED VIEWS ON PROPOSAL AND THAT PEREZ-GUERRERO, AFTER CONSULATION WITH IRANIANS AND SAUDIS, TOLD MCNAMARA THAT G-19 IS OPPOSED TO CONCEPT. ACCORDING TO THE CANADIANS, CIEC CO-CHAIRMAN MACEACHEN HAS ACCEPTED PEREZ-GUERERRO'S INVITATION TO VISIT HIM EITHER IN CARACAS OR PUERTO RICO SOON CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 00626 202211Z

FOR FURTHER CONSULTATION ON NEXT CIEC STEPS. END COMMENT.

3. BEGIN QUOTE: "I HAVE SOME MISGIVINGS REGARDING MR. MCNAMARA'S INITIATIVE TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION OF IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES WITHOUT GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES, SUCH AS MR. WILLY BRANDT, AN INTERNATIONAL FIGURE OF GREAT PRESTIGE.

4. I HAVE INFORMED MR. MCNAMARA OF THIS FACT, SINCE HE INFORMED ME BEFOREHAND OF HIS INTENTION TO LAUNCH THIS PROPOSAL. EVER SINCE I HAVE BEEN RECEIVING COMMENTS FROM MY COLLEAGUES OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO THE SAME EFFECT. IT IS CONSIDERED PRE-MATURE TO PROCEDE TO ESTABLISH A PRIVATE MECHANISM AS THE ONE THAT HAS BEEN PROPOSED BEFORE THE END OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE IN PARIS, AMONG GOVERNMENTS, WHERE A SATISFACTORY BASIS FOR INTER-NATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION SHOULD BE AGREED UPON. UNLIKE MR. MCNAMARA. WHOSE PERFORMANCE AT THE WORLD BANK HAS BEEN POSITIVE, I BELIEVE, WITH OTHERS-THAT AN OPPORTUNITY TO REACH CONCRETE RESULTS IN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE IN PARIS DOES EXIST AND THAT IS NECESSARY TO STRENGTHEN AND USE THIS OPPORTUNITY THAT THE GOVERNMENTS HAVE TO EXPRESS THEIR POLITICAL WILL IN THE FAVOURABLE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS YEAR 1977. I AM SURE THAT MR. MCNAMARA WOULD AGREE THAT EMPHASIS AT PRESENT SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE PARIS CONFERENCE, WHICH WOULD HAVE POSITIVE EFFECTS ON NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY IN THE UNITED NATIONS." END QUOTE. VAKY

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